

The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A transporter for carrying a payload over a surface, the transporter comprising:

- a. a surface-contacting module for traversing the surface;
- b. a power base including at least one power source and at least one motor for powering the surface-contacting module, the power base pivotally coupled to the surface-contacting module about a base pivot axis, the base pivot axis substantially parallel to the surface, the base characterized by a base pivot angle with respect to the surface-contacting module;
- c. a support for supporting the payload, the support pivotally coupled to the power base about a support pivot axis, characterized by a support pivot angle with respect to the vertical plane; and
- d. a mechanical linkage for maintaining the support pivot angle substantially constant as the power base pivots with respect to the surface-contacting module; and
- e. a rest for partial support of the payload, the rest pivotally coupled to the support about a rest pivot axis, the rest pivot axis substantially parallel to the surface and defining a rest pivot angle with respect to the vertical plane;
wherein the rest pivot angle is less than a specified angle when the support pivot axis is above a specified height and wherein the rest pivot angle is greater than the specified angle when the support pivot axis is below the specified height.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The transporter according to claim 2, further comprising a first-linkage, coupling the first-rest to the power base in such a manner as to vary the first-rest pivot angle as a function of the base pivot angle.

4.-6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) A transporter according to claim 2, ~~further comprising for carrying a payload over a surface, the transporter comprising:~~

a. a surface-contacting module for traversing the surface;

b. a power base including at least one power source and at least one motor for powering the surface-contacting module, the power base pivotally coupled to the surface-contacting module about a base pivot axis, the base pivot axis substantially parallel to the surface, the base characterized by a base pivot angle with respect to the surface-contacting module;

c. a support for supporting the payload, the support pivotally coupled to the power base about a support pivot axis, characterized by a support pivot angle with respect to the vertical plane; and

d. a mechanical linkage for maintaining the support pivot angle substantially constant as the power base pivots with respect to the surface-contacting module;

e. a rest for partial support of the payload, the rest pivotally coupled to the support about a rest pivot axis, the rest pivot axis substantially parallel to the surface and defining a rest pivot angle with respect to the vertical plane; and

f. a first-roller follower for governing the first-rest pivot angle as a function of the base pivot angle.

8.-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A transporter according to claim 2, wherein the first-rest further includes a stop such that the first-rest pivot angle is at least a specified angle.

11. (currently amended) A transporter according to claim 2, wherein the first-rest is a footrest for supporting a foot of a user.

12. (currently amended) A transporter for carrying a payload over a surface, the transporter comprising:

- a. a surface-contacting module for traversing the surface;
- b. a power base including at least one power source and at least one motor for powering the surface-contacting module, the power base pivotally coupled to the surface-contacting module about a base pivot axis, the base pivot axis substantially parallel to the surface, the base characterized by a base pivot angle with respect to the surface-contacting module;
- c. a support for supporting the payload, the support pivotally coupled to the power base about a support pivot axis, characterized by a support pivot angle with respect to the vertical plane; and
- d. a mechanical linkage for maintaining the support pivot angle substantially constant as the power base pivots with respect to the surface-contacting module;
- e. a rest for partial support of the payload, the rest pivotally coupled to the support about a rest pivot axis, the rest pivot axis substantially parallel to the surface and defining a rest pivot angle with respect to the vertical plane; and
- f. according to claim 2, further comprising a first motor, coupled to the first rest, for driving the first rest to move with respect to the support such that the first rest pivot angle with respect to the vertical plane varies as the power base pivots with respect to the surface-contacting module.

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended) A transporter according to claim 1, further including a caster coupled to the power base in such a manner as to be capable of being brought into engagement with the surface during operation of the transporter.